

The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A dry direct tableting base material comprising for dry direct tableting which is obtained by impregnating low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose impregnated with a sugar or a sugar alcohol wherein the product resulting therefrom is dried, and wherein said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose having has a hydroxypropyl cellulose content in the range from 5 to 16 % by weight and then drying the product resulting therefrom.
2. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has a degree of compaction of 35% or greater.
3. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein said base material has a flowability index of 60 or greater.
4. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 2 wherein said base material has a flowability index of 60 or greater.
5. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.
6. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.

7. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 3 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.

8. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 4 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.

9. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

10. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

11. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 3 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

12. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 4 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

13. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 5 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

14. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 6 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 or 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

15. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 7 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

16. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 8 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

17. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

18. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

19. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 3 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

20. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 4 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

21. (currently amended) [A] The dry direct tableting base material ~~for dry direct tableting~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is in fibrous form.